

Message Text

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44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 281620Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7103

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T AMMAN 1090

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS, JO, MO, US, IR

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO MOROCCO

REF: STATE 048784

1. WHEN I MET WITH RIFAI MORNING FEB 28, I BRIEFED HIM IN VERY GENERAL TERMS ON OUR BASIC APPROACH FOLLOWING PARAS 1 AND 2 REFTEL.

2. WITH REGARD TO 106 MM RECOILESS RIFLES, I TOLD HIM THAT WE WERE PROCEEDING TO NOTIFY CONGRESS ON THE BASIS THAT ONLY FMS ACQUIRED GUNS WOULD BE TRANSFERRED.

3. REGARDING 155 MM HOWITZERS FROM IRAN, I TOLD HIM THAT WE WERE AWAITING AN INDICATION FROM IRAN OF ITS INTENT TO TRANSFER AND THE METHOD WHICH IRAN WISHED TO USE TO EFFECT THE TRANSFER -- INVOLVING JORDAN OR NOT INVOLVING JORDAN SOMEHOW IN THE PROCESS. IF IRAN SO REQUESTED, AND JORDAN IS TO BE INVOLVED, WE WOULD THEN COME TO GOJ FOR APPROPRIATE ASSURANCES AND A SUBSEQUENT REQUEST FOR A RE-TRANSFER TO MOROCCO.

4. ON THE 20 F-5A'S I TOLD RIFAI THAT WE STILL NEED A GOM TRANSFER ASSURANCE AND WERE APPROACHING RABAT DIRECTLY FOR THAT. IN ADDITION, FOR REASONS WHICH

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WOULD BE OBVIOUS TO HIM, WE WISHED TO HAVE A CONFIRMA-

TION THAT GOJ AND GOM HAVE WORKED OUT THE TRANSFER ON THE BASIS OF AN AGREED REPLACEMENT ARRANGEMENT. RIFAI SAID THAT GOJ WAS READY TO TRANSFER ON THE BASIS OF WRITTEN MOROCCAN ASSURANCES THAT THE AIRCRAFT WOULD BE RETURNED OR REPLACED BY MOROCCO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WHEN GOJ RECEIVED THIS WRITTEN ASSURANCE, IT WOULD PROVIDE A COPY TO THE UNITED STATES SIGNIFYING GOJ ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH AN UNDERTAKING BY MOROCCO.

5. I POINTED OUT TO RIFAI THAT FOR THE PRESENT MOROCCAN F-5E'S WERE ONLY BEING CONSIDERED BEFORE THE CONGRESS AND THAT THERE WOULD BE SOME TIME LAPSE BEFORE IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE LOA FOR THESE COULD GO AHEAD. RIFAI SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS AND GOJ WOULD FACTOR IT INTO THEIR THINKING WHEN THEY INDICATED THEY WERE SATISFIED WITH REPLACEMENT ARRANGEMENTS.

6. I ALSO BRIEFED RIFAI ALONG LINES OF PARA 8 REFTTEL. I TOLD HIM SHIPMENT OF JORDANIAN-MANNED AIRCRAFT TO MOROCCO WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE LIGHT OF US-JORDANIAN AGREEMENT OF 1957 WHICH COVERED MILITARY EQUIPMENT PROVIDED TO JORDAN BY THE UNITED STATES AND WHICH LIMITED THEIR USE TO INTERNAL SECURITY AND SELF-DEFENSE PURPOSES. RIFAI SAID THE AIRCRAFT WOULD ONLY BE GOING TO MOROCCO FOR PURPOSES OF SHOW AND WOULD NOT BE USED BY MOROCCO UNDER THE AGREED UPON ARRANGEMENTS. THEY COULD STAY IN THE HANGAR IF THEY WISHED TO. I TOLD RIFAI THAT I WAS NOT A LAWYER BUT IT WOULD BE HARD FOR ME TO CONCEIVE OF HOW ONE COULD INTERPRET SUCH A GESTURE AS "USE IN SELF DEFENSE OF JORDAN." RIFAI SMILED AND SAID THAT DEFENSE OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO AGAINST SOVIET INSPIRED ATTACKS FROM ALGERIA HE CONSIDERED JUST AS MUCH SELF DEFENSE AS AN ACT HERE ON JORDAN'S OWN SOIL. I TOLD HIM THAT HIS INTERPRETATION WAS STRETCHING THINGS AND THAT OUR INITIAL REACTION TO SUCH A JORDANIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE IS NEGATIVE. HE THEN TOLD ME THAT IF THAT WAS THE US POSITION JORDAN WOULD ACCEDE TO THE US VIEW. I SAID I WAS RELIEVED TO HEAR HIS VIEW AND THAT WE THOUGHT IT BEST NOT TO TAKE ON ANY ADDITIONAL INTERNATIONALIZING OF THE SAHARAN CON-

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FLICT AND THE IMPLICATIONS ATTACHED THERETO.

7. I CONFIRMED AGAIN WITH RIFAI THE INFORMATION HE GAVE ME FEB 25 THAT JORDAN WAS NOW WILLING TO GO AHEAD WITH THE 20 F5A'S. HE SAID YES AND I SAID WE WERE READY TO GO TO CONGRESS, SUBJECT TO RECEIPT OF FIRM ASSURANCE THAT THERE WAS A COMMON AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOJ AND THE GOM ON REPLACEMENT.

8. INCIDENTALLY, RIFAI TOLD ME THAY YESTERDAY DURING HIS VISIT TO SYRIA, ASAD INFORMED THEM THAT THE LIBYANS WERE "POURING EVERYTHING THEY HAD INTO ALGERIA". HE THUS CLAIMED THAT FURTHER INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE CONFLICT HAS ALREADY TAKEN PLACE AND THAT JORDAN SAW TE SAHARA DISPUTE AS ANOTHER ANGOLA.

9. REQUEST DEPARTMENT REPEAT TO USCINCEUR.
PICKERING

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NNN

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